

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



CHINESE COMMUNIST
MERCHANT VESSEL
CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

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NOVEMBER 1969

COPY 117

19 PAGES

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Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM
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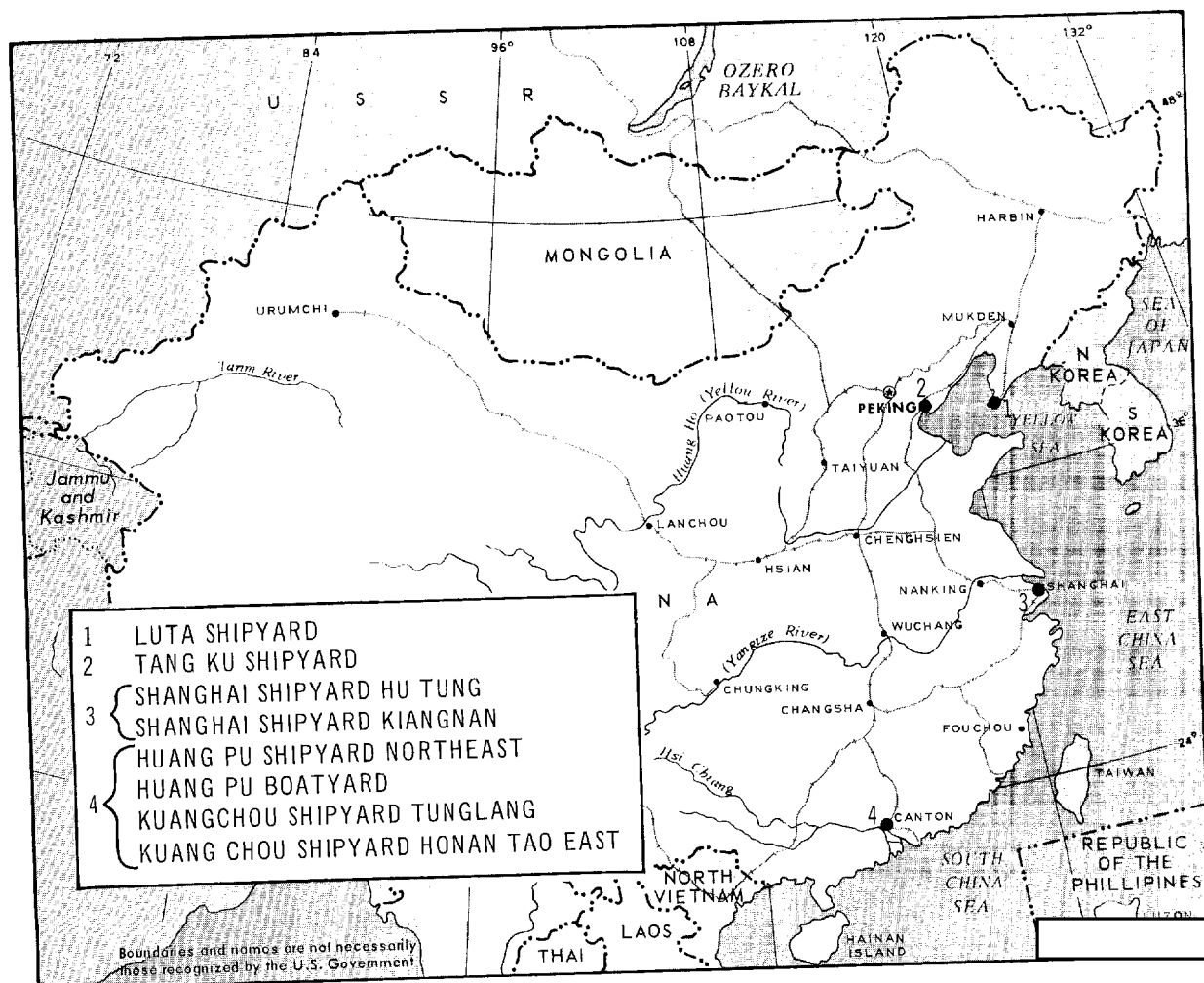
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CHINESE COMMUNIST MERCHANT VESSEL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Communist China is currently engaged in an extensive merchant vessel construction program. This production effort involves part or all of the available way space in eight shipyards and includes thirteen classes of merchant vessels. The building programs are in progress in all three fleet areas; however, the production effort in the south has so far been limited to smaller vessels whereas the larger vessels have been constructed at Shanghai in the East and Luta in the North Sea Fleet areas. This resume of construction programs is broken down by activity at particular yards.



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LUTA SHIPYARD DAIREN

Vessel production at Luta declined during the Cultural Revolution, with construction efforts directed toward the building of small or single units, including Shanghai Class PGMs, infiltration vessels, oceangoing tugs, and POL barges. This period was preceded by a production cycle that concentrated on the mass production of Shanghai Class PGMs, several Ta Ching series tankers, and oceangoing tugs. The three vessels covered in this report represent what appears to be post-Cultural Revolution activity.

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New Class Medium Landing Ship (LSM)
LOA 235 ft Beam 45 ft
Launched: [] Luta Shipyard Dairen

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The construction rate on this vessel has been considerably slower than that observed on the merchant vessels under construction at the same time. This new unit is characterized by a compact superstructure located on the centerline midships; a probable vehicle well fore and aft of the superstructure and four automatic mounts on the main deck. []

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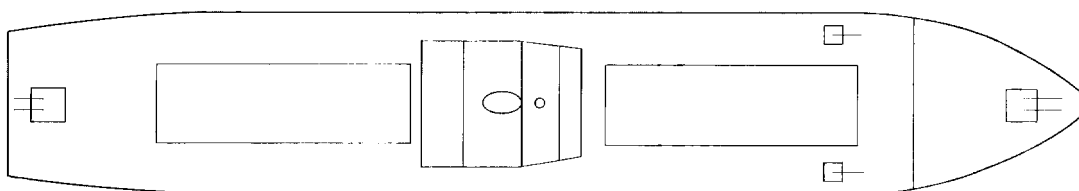
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[] It was first observed on the ways in the mid-stage of construction []
It was next seen at the fitting-out quay []

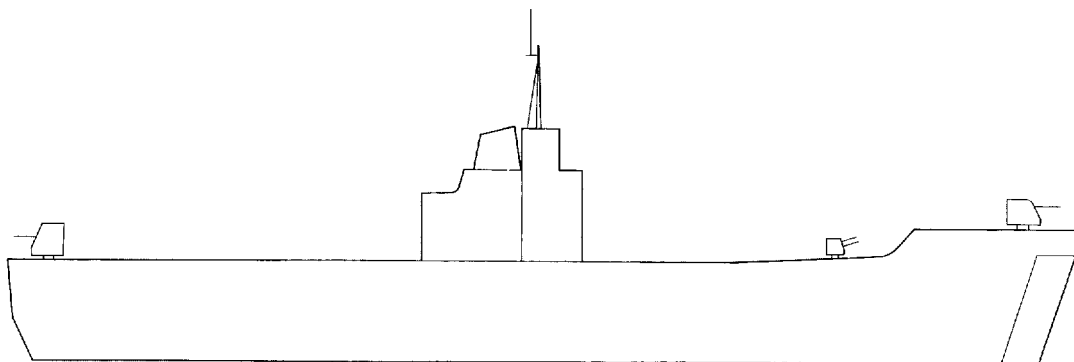
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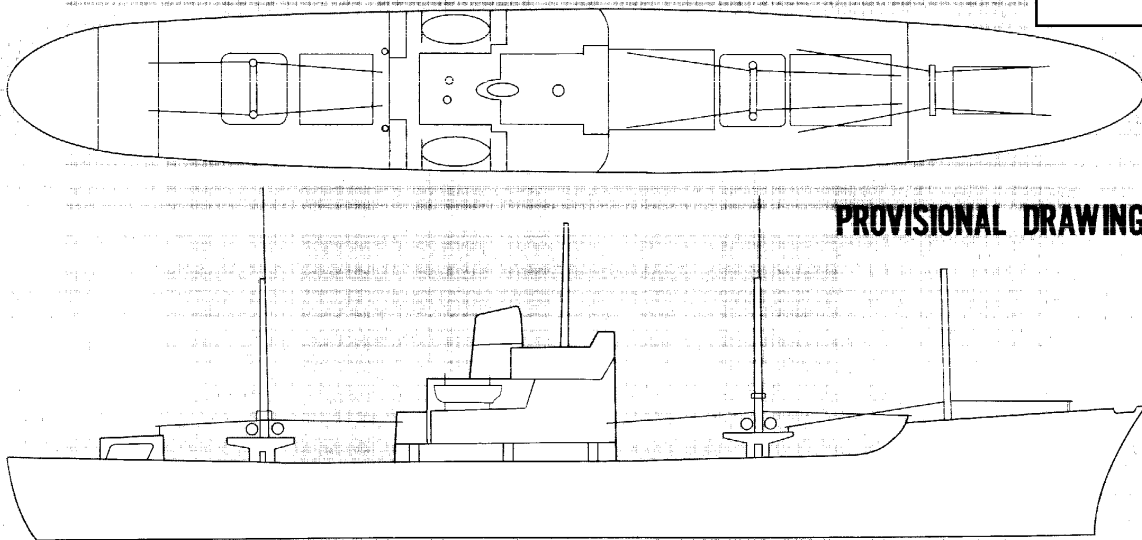
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Kao Yang Cargo Vessel
LOA 530 ft Beam [REDACTED]
Launched: [REDACTED] Luta Shipyard Dairen

The Kao Yang was constructed at Luta Shipyard Dairen and, according to collateral sources, was launched [REDACTED] after a way-time [REDACTED]. This time period is essentially corroborated by photography. The hull was first observed on the ways [REDACTED]. The next available coverage, [REDACTED] showed the vessel at the fitting-out quay.

The Kao Yang is similar in design and dimensions to the Chao Yang built at Shanghai Shipyard Kiangnan [REDACTED] (See page 13). Both vessels measure 530 feet LOA [REDACTED] beam with only minor superstructure design differences.



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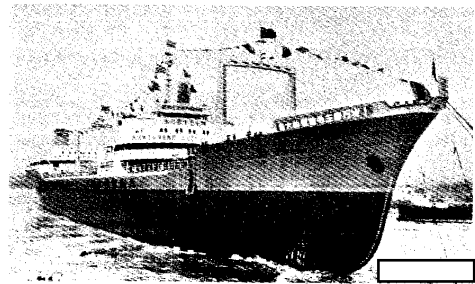
25X1

25X1 Ta Ching [] Tanker
25X1 LOA 510 ft Beam 65 ft
25X1 Launched [] Luta Shipyard Dairen

25X1 The hull of this vessel was first photographed
25X1 on the ways [] and was launched []
[]

25X1 This is the second large merchant vessel to
25X1 be constructed at Luta Shipyard with an unusually
short way time []

25X1 [] Moreover, it is the largest tanker
25X1 known to have been constructed in Communist China.
A probable sister ship, whose construction was observed to have begun [] was
seen in an advanced stage of construction on the ways []



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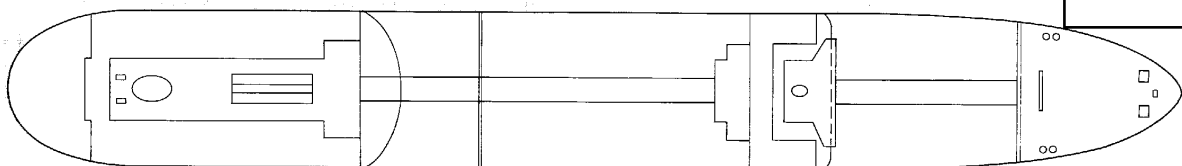
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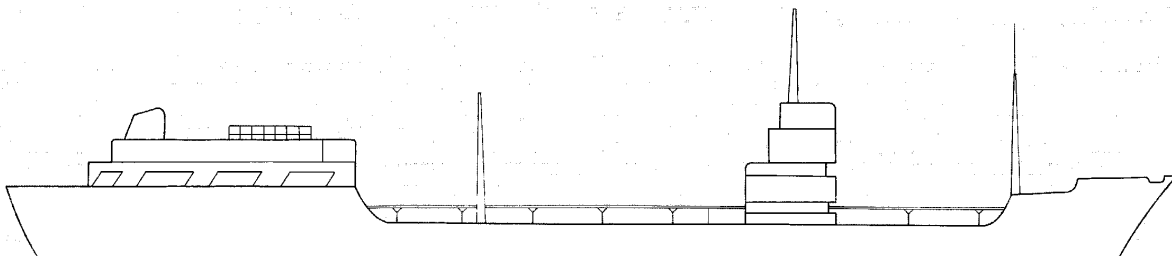
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TANG KU SHIPYARD HSIN CHIANG

Coastal Tanker

LOA 215 ft

Launched: [REDACTED] Tang Ku Shipyard Hsin Chiang

The Hsin Chiang Shipyard is located adjacent to the Tang Ku Port Facilities and apparently serves primarily as a repair facility for cargo vessels entering at Tang Ku. The shipyard does, however, have a modest construction capability which includes the MINCHU 2-class freighter launched [REDACTED] and the coastal tanker shown here. The latter was launched [REDACTED] and was observed at the fitting-out quay [REDACTED]. This unit appears to be of a single ship class since it is dissimilar to other Chinese Communist coastal tankers. No known sister ships appear to have been constructed.

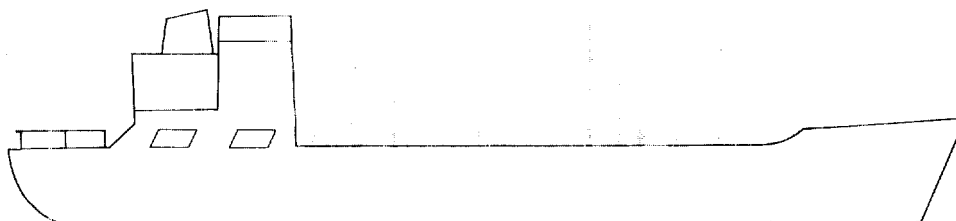
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SHANGHAI SHIPYARD HUTUNG

The Shanghai Shipyard Hutung is presently China's leading producer of naval and merchant ships. Hutung is concurrently producing OSA Guided Missile Patrol boats, HUCHWAN Hydrofoil Torpedo boats, SHANTUNG Hydrofoil Gun boats, assorted naval auxiliaries, and merchant ships. Hutung has, prior to the Cultural Revolution slowdowns, serially produced the TACHING 18-class tanker series [REDACTED] Hutung also functions as a ship repair yard usually performing above-water-line repairs and transferring combatants to Shanghai Shipyard East for dry-docking.

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Ta Ching 18 Series Coastal Tanker

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Launched: Cont. prod. [REDACTED]

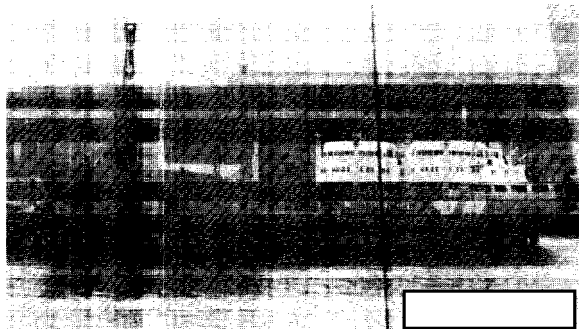
Shanghai Shipyard Hutung

This series of coastal tankers has been observed in continuous production [REDACTED]

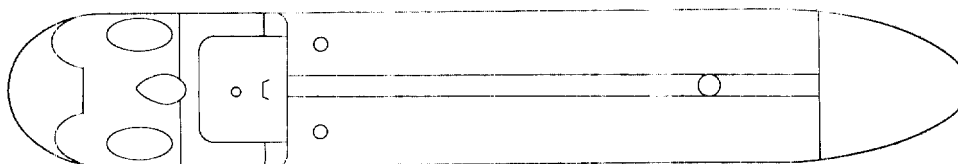
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Although hull dimensions are the same for all vessels of this class, the superstructure of the most recent unit observed has a varied design (see page 9). Average way time for this class [REDACTED] Approximately seven have been built.

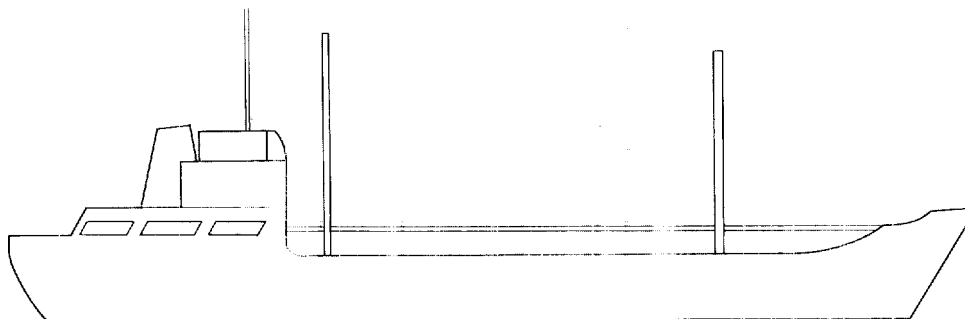
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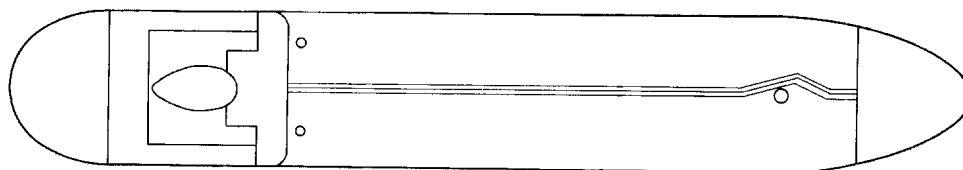
Ta Ching 18 Series Coastal Tanker

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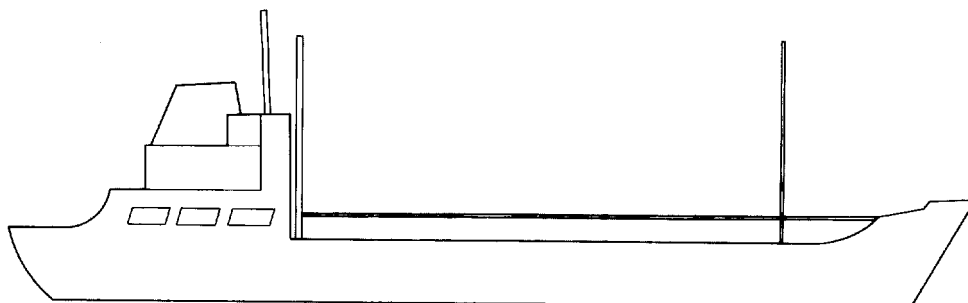
Launched: Cont. Prod.

Shanghai Shipyard Hutung

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Chan Tou 81 Series Cargo Vessel

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Launched: [redacted] Shanghai Shipyard Hutung

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The Chan Tou 81 series is a medium length, engine aft, three-hatch, dry cargo vessel which has been produced at Hutung Shipyard [redacted] At least two units of this class, the Chan Tou 81 and 82 have been launched [redacted]

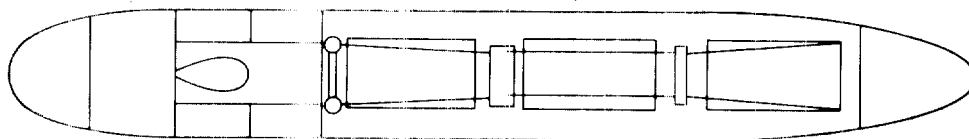
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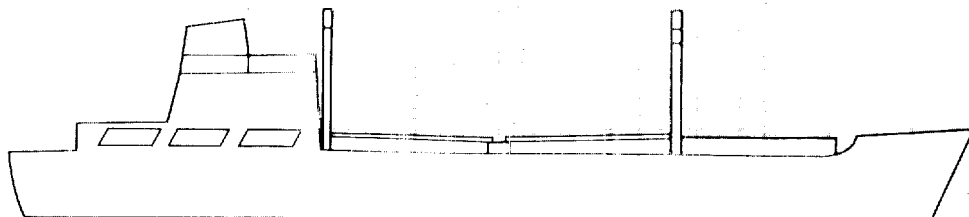
[redacted] ground photography shows that the first unit (81) had been launched [redacted] and the second unit (82) [redacted] Estimated way time [redacted]

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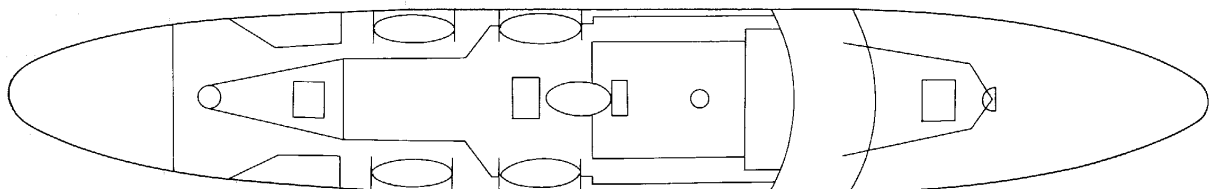
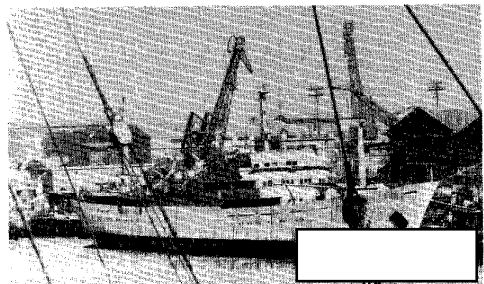
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Shijian (AGS)

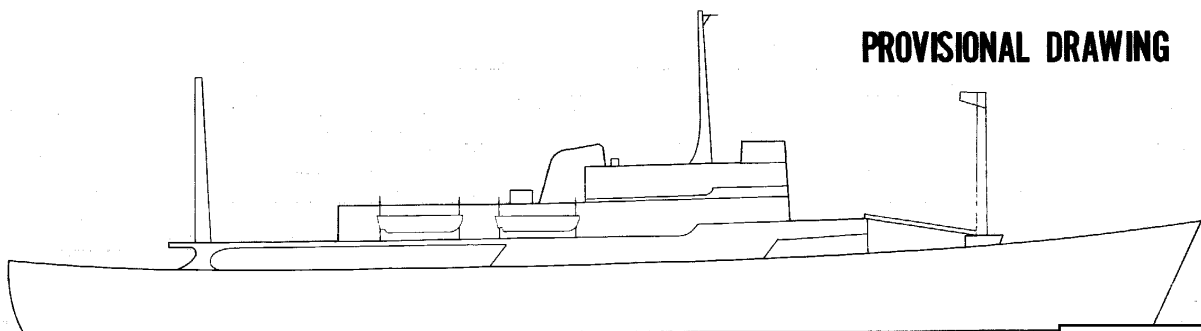
Launched: [redacted] Shanghai Shipyard Hutung

The Shijian AGS was first observed in mid-stage of construction on the ways [redacted] it was seen at the fitting-out quay indicating a way time construction period [redacted]

The fitting-out period lasted from about [redacted] when Shijian was last seen on overhead photography. It was not seen at Hutung on coverage [redacted] Although ground observers have reported the Shijian operating out of Ching Tao, ground photography [redacted] shows the vessel back at the fitting-out quay at Hutung.



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SHANGHAI SHIPYARD KIANGNAN

Kiangnan is one of the most diversified and productive yards in China. Many military type vessels including the W- and R-class submarines and the [] Kiangnan-class destroyer escort have been built here. In addition to its large ship repair and maintenance facility, it has also produced numerous merchant vessels and small harbor craft. Moreover, it has the capability of producing large merchant vessels of the type discussed in this report.

25X1

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Chao Yang
LOA 530 ft
Launched: [redacted] Shanghai Shipyard Kiangnan



A followup ship to the DONG FENG having the same dimensions but a different mast and superstructure configuration, the CHAO YANG was first observed on the ways at Kiangnan in a mid-stage of construction [redacted]

[redacted] Collateral support indicates that it was launched [redacted]

[redacted] On the next available coverage [redacted]

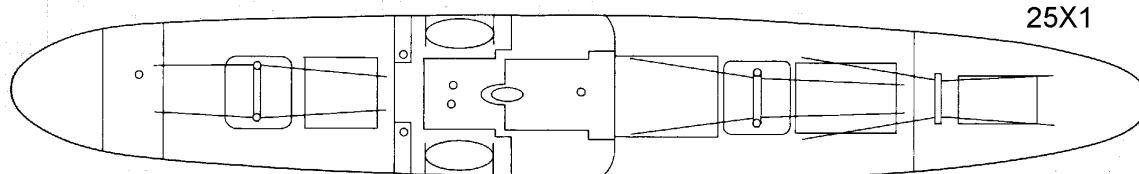
[redacted] it was seen at the fitting-out quay and [redacted]

it was seen in the graving dock. Thus the total construction period is estimated [redacted]

[redacted]

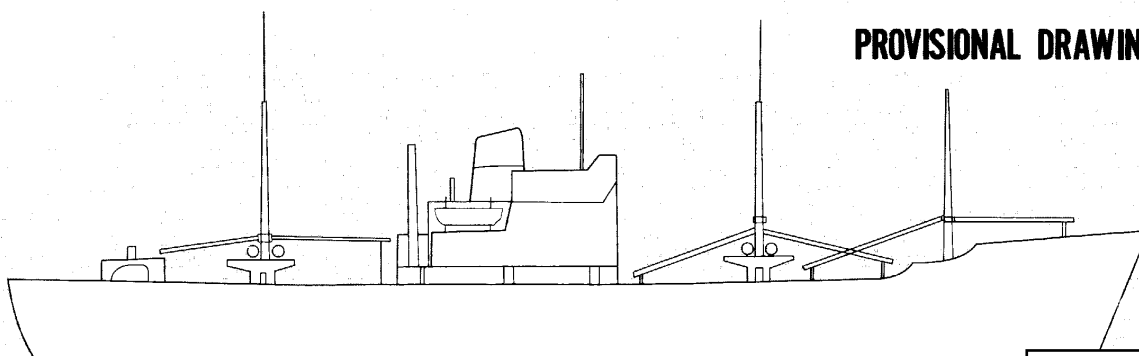
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HUANG PU SHIPYARD NORTHEAST

The Huang Pu Shipyard Northeast adjoins the Huang Pu Port Facilities which are located on the north reach of the Pearl River. Construction at this yard began [REDACTED] This yard appears to be intended to serve as a repair facility for merchant ships entering at Huang Pu.

25X1

NEW CONSTRUCTION: PROBABLE AGS

This vessel was first observed at the fitting-out quay [REDACTED] No other evidence of construction activity at the Huang Pu Shipyard Northeast has been observed. This ship may have been built at Kuang Chou Shipyard Honan Tao East in the large four-bay construction hall and moved to Huang Pu for fitting out. General configuration of this vessel suggests that it is a hydrographic survey vessel (see facing page).

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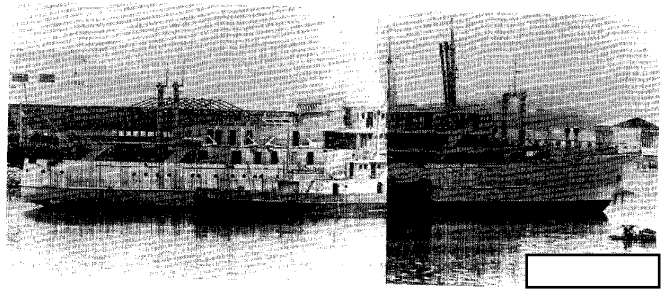
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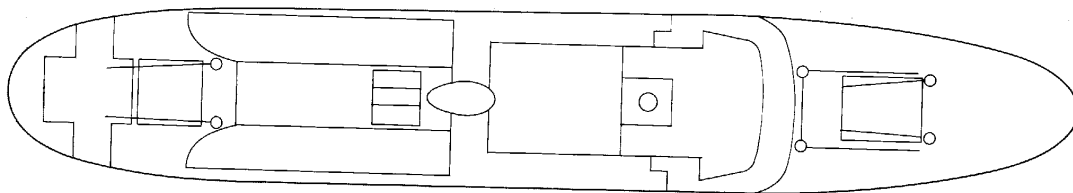
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New Construction Probable AGS
LOA [REDACTED]
Launched: [REDACTED] Huang Pu
Shipyard Northeast

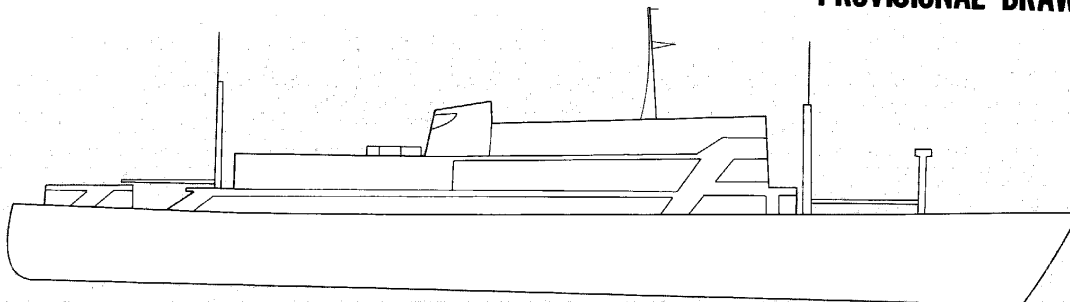


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HUANG PU BOATYARD HSIN CHOU

The Hsin Chou boatyard has generally been utilized to build or repair small civil craft such as river barges or fishing boats. Construction of coastal freighters is an unusual circumstance probably prompted by the Vietnamese war.

NEW CONSTRUCTION: COASTAL FREIGHTER

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Photography [] shows six small coastal freighters at the fitting-out quay. Insufficient coverage precludes an adequate estimate of way time or total construction time. This vessel production probably occurred in the covered buildingway (see facing page).

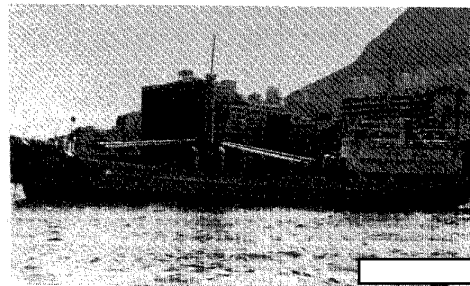
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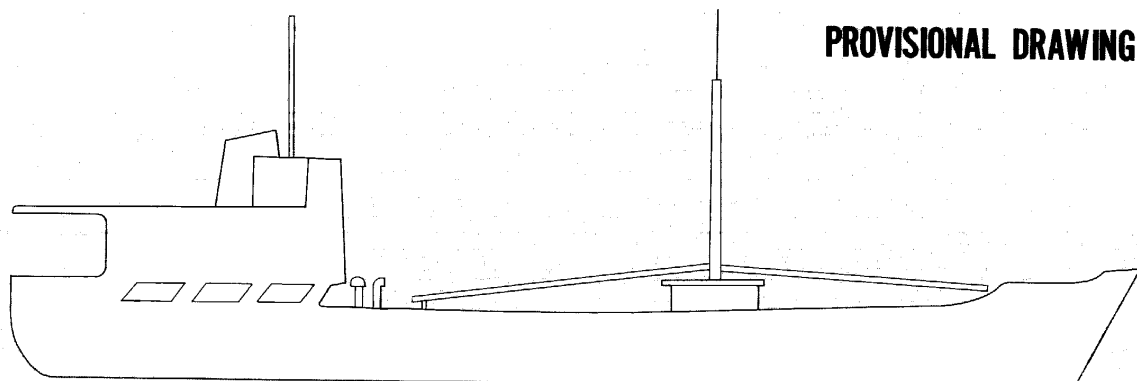
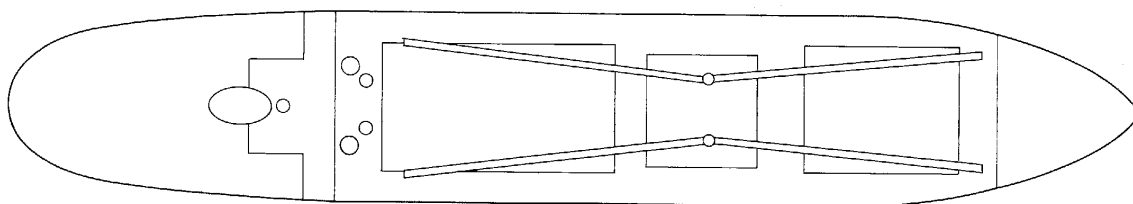
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New Construction: Coastal Freighter
LOA 145 ft [redacted]
Launched: [redacted] Huang Pu Boatyard
Hsin Chou



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KUANG CHOU SHIPYARD TUNG LANG

This shipyard has been extensively developed by the Chinese and has now become the largest shipbuilding yard in the South Sea Fleet region. Production at Tung Lang has included the KIANGNAN DE [REDACTED] SF, the FUCHOU AO, plus a variety of merchant ships and harbor craft.

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Hung Chi [REDACTED]

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Launched: [REDACTED] Kuang
Chou Shipyard Tung Lang

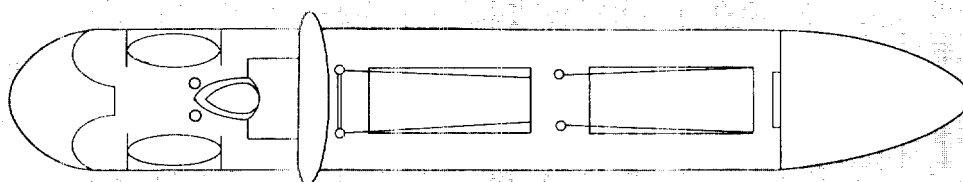
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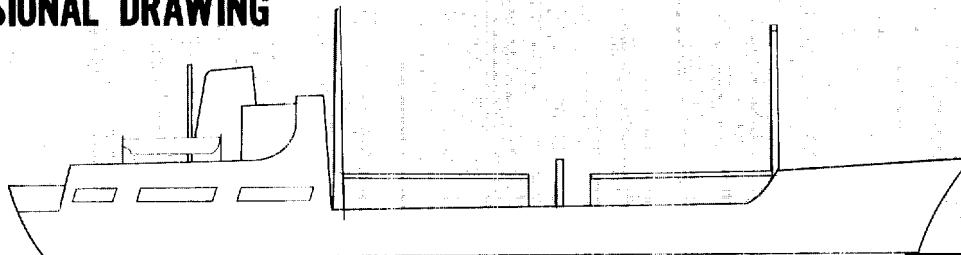
Continuing construction of this class coastal freighter has been observed at Tung Lang [REDACTED]. It is estimated that three to four units of the type illustrated have been constructed thus far. Approximate way time has varied [REDACTED]

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KUANG CHOU SHIPYARD HONAN TAO EAST

The Kuang Chou Shipyard Honan Tao East also begun [] and as yet is not completed. The usable portions of the shipyard have produced a variety of non-combatant vessels in addition to merchant ships.

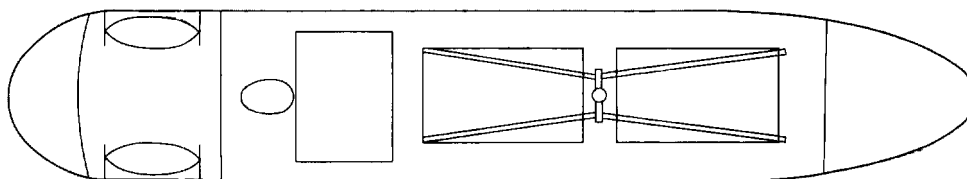
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New Construction: Coastal Freighter

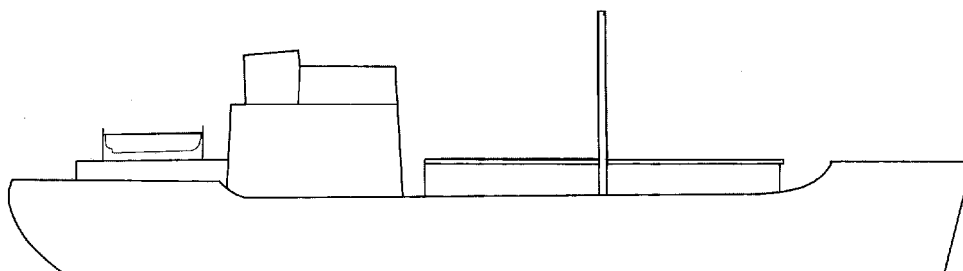
Launched: [] (prob), Kuang Chou Shipyard Honan Tao East

An estimated total of six vessels of this type have been observed under construction either on the ways or fitting out. Inadequate photo coverage precludes any valid assessment of way time or positive total. The vessel illustrated was among a probable total of three such vessels observed on the ways []

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